The average processing cost of gas for making petroleum products for 2001-02 is as under:—

Company	Rs./MT
ONGC	648
OIL	2160
GAIL	2144

Scams in co-operative banks

†*332. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the toal number of scams in Co-operative banks in the country from January, 2001 to June, 2002 and the extent of public money lost in these scams;

(b) the steps taken by the Reserve Bank of India to stop these incidents;

(c) whether Government would make the audit of Co-operative banks mandatory by CAG or any other institution;

(d) whether Government would impart special training to bank employees for this purpose; and

(e) whether the Bank Directors have the right to waive loans at present; if so, the arrangements made by Government to stop its misuse?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), 18 Urban Co-operative Banks and 3 District Central Co-operative Banks were involved in irregularities during the period January, 2001 to June, 2002. These banks are likely to incur financial loss of Rs.1357.69 crores and Rs.208.03 crores respectively. In view of these irregularities, RBI and NABARD have initiated various measures. These include requiring the Registrars of Co-operative Societies in Maharashtra and Gujarat to conduct special audit of investment transactions of all State and District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in their States; issuing of circular to all

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and DCCBs reiterating the important guidelines on investment portfolio and transactions in Government securities issued by RBI from time to time; advising all SCBs and DCCBs to necessarily hold their investments in Government Securities portfolio in either SGL account with RBI or in a dematerialized account with depositories; instituting a system of quarterly audit in Co-operative banks to be conducted by the concurrent auditor etc.

(c) All Co-operative institutions functioning in a State are governed by the provisions of the respective State Co-operative Societies Act and rules framed there under. The audit functions of these institutions are vested with the State Governments. In view of this, there is no proposal at present with Union Government to make the audit of Co-operative banks mandatory by CAG or any other institution.

(d) NABARD has reported that it conducts training programmes for the officers of Co-operatives on various aspects of bank's functioning. In addition, the training establishments of Co-operative Banks are also provided grant support by NABARD for conduct of training programmes for their staff. Aspects regarding internal checks and control are covered under these programmes. Further, the Regional Offices of NABARD have also been advised to conduct sensitization programme for client institutions on the subject. In addition, NABARD is also taking steps to conduct training programmes for the bank staff on Government securities transactions so as to apprise them about the guidelines issued by RBI/ NABARD in this regard.

(e) The extant guidelines issued by RBI/NABARD from time to time clearly stipulate that Boards of Directors of Co-operative banks do not have any powers to waive loans granted to any borrower.

Losses suffered by Tirupati airport

*333. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tirupati airport in Andhra Pradesh is a loss making airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether less air services from different parts of the country is one of the reasons for losses of this pilgrimage airport; and